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INFORMATION FROM

FO: FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY North Korea

SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

WHERE
PUBLISHED Pyongyang and Haeju, Korea

DATE
PUBLISHED 6, 9 Apr 1949

LANGUAGE Korean

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

DATE DIST *W* Jul 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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AGRICULTURE THRIVES IN NORTH KOREA

AMPLE SUPPLY OF FERTILIZER -- T'u-sa Sin-mun, 6 Apr 49

An ample supply of fertilizer is available in North Korea for this year's spring sowing. This was due to the increased production of chemical fertilizer. The Hupnam Fertilizer Manufacturing Company, for instance, as early as 16 November had attained 106 percent of the 1948 annual production quota for the People's Economic Plan.

Beside the increased production, the distribution was greatly aided by the hearty cooperation rendered by the railroad workers who transported the product as rapidly as possible from the factory to the farmer so that the fertilizer would be ready for the spring sowing.

As of 20 March 1949, the city of Pyongyang had supplied the farmers with 104 percent of the city's quota of fertilizer for the first quarter of the year. As of the same date, North Korea as a whole supplied the full percentage of the monthly quota for that month.

PRODUCTION OF SPRING COCOONS -- Hwanghae Inminpo, 9 Apr 49

In an effort to promote the silk industry of North Korea, an all-out preparation for production of spring cocoons is being made by the farmers in the Naengjong-ni, Soch'on-myon, Kamech'on-Kun, in Ewanghse-do, which is one of the important silk centers in North Korea.

Women play the major role in the sericulture industry of this village. To attain the annual production quota of 15 sheets of eggs assigned to the cocoon-raising center in this village, the village women made 600 pieces of silk worm screen and 600 pieces of silk worm net. Forty pieces each of screen and net are required to raise silkworms hatched from each sheet of eggs.

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CONCLUSION

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On 25 March, the women applied six straw bags of ammonium sulfate on 3 acres of mulberry field, and five days later carried 13,500 kilograms of vegetable manure to the field. The women with no experience in sericulture assist the work at the joint silkworm-raising centers under the guidance of the skilled monitors. There are now seven such centers in this village.

The village also selected 150 chungbo [one chungbo is 2.451 acres] of shrub area to raise oak-leaf silkworms. Over 50 women were mobilized for 2 days to cultivate the oak-leaf silkworm farms.

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